

Michael Graves; *Ritual and Domestic Architecture, Sacred Places, and Images: Archaeology in the Marquesas Archipelago, French Polynesia*, by Sidsel Millerstrom; and *The Archaeology of the Conical Clan in Micronesia*, by Paul Rainbird.

As can be seen, only three papers deal with Polynesia, and none address our favorite island in the center of the world – despite their use of a birdman figure from Easter Island as the logo for the book. New Zealand gets a short paragraph in the introduction, as does Samoa.

Conte discusses the importance of ethnographic analogy that becomes more and more urgent as elders die and life-ways change. Some technologies have been maintained with enough continuity to allow for this approach, with assistance of the Polynesian societies themselves.

Ladefoged and Graves describe Hawaiian political and community territories that were organized in complex ways, and attempt to explain patterns of spatial variation of complex Hawaiian chiefdoms. Such divisions may have occurred over centuries and may have been in response to productivity within divisions, or due to the rise of complex chiefdoms that altered boundaries for political purposes.

Millerstrom's paper on Marquesan archaeology concerns ritual architecture and art and how these were associated or how they varied. Her study includes separating ritual architecture from chiefly household units and studying variations and associations. Her survey indicates that, in the valleys of Taipivai, Hakapa'a, Hatiheu, and Anaho, ritual architectural complexes often were built on narrow ridges; most were extensive with multiple terraces, and some had petroglyphs in the shrine, as well as one or more statues.

I thought the papers somewhat uneven and the extensive coverage of Australia, while interesting, was overwhelming for a book supposedly about Oceania.

Easter Island and Its Mysteries

by Stéphen-Charles Chauvet

Originally published as *L'île de Pâques et ses Mystères*, "TEL":Paris, 1935, 86 p., 68 plates. English translation published online in 2005 at www.chauvet-translation.com

Review by Paul Horley

EVERYONE TRYING TO GATHER a bookshelf devoted to Easter Island is well familiar with the difficulties of this task, as numerous titles dedicated to the turbulent *Rapa Nui* history and its vast cultural heritage are out-of-print for years. Moreover, many are written in Spanish, French, German, etc., which poses an additional barrier for the Anglophone reader. This situation was significantly improved by the successful project of bringing us a book translated into English from French and compiling several valuable accounts of early Easter Island visitors, published by the Easter Island Foundation. Yet another great advance was made in the past year, resulting in a wonderful web-site dedicated to the classic French book about *Rapa Nui* written by Dr. Stéphen-Charles Chauvet, translated into English by Ann M. Altman, edited and de-

signed for web presentation by Shawn McLaughlin.

Originally published in the first half of 20th century, the book contained a large amount of data about Easter Islanders, their land, customs, religion and art. In addition, it featured 68 plates with 186 figures – a unique gallery where one could find early maps of the island (made by the expedition of González de Haedo in 1770 and by the officers of the corvette *O'Higgins* in 1870), old drawings and etchings (from the accounts of Cook, La Pérouse, Dupetit-Thouars, Kotzebue, Vi-aud, and Pinart), historic photos of the island sites (by Thomson, Delabaude, Bienvenido de Estella, and Shapiro), as well as an impressive photographic collection of Easter Island artifacts including wooden statuettes and large stone images, spear points, bone and stone fishhooks, skulls with engravings, ceremonial paddles, *rongorongo* tablets, and adornments.

Now, one can truly enjoy the on-line version of this book, superbly translated into English with correction of numerous Chauvet misspellings. It is even easier to read than the paper version, mainly due to searchable text and a single mouse click access to the figures referenced in the text. All the illustrations are scanned in high-resolution, featuring very good details, at the same time generally of medium file size that ensures a fast download. If necessary, the overall composition of the plates can be seen in low-resolution scans, accommodated with the detailed captions for every figure on the "Figure legends" page.

The site follows the subdivision of the original book into the chapters entitled "Easter Island," "The Easter Islanders," "Flora and fauna," "Monuments and megaliths," "Carved wooden objects," and "The talking tablets of Easter Island," each presented as an individual web-page. Comments appearing in each chapter are added with numerous translator/editor notes (given in italics), clarifying particular statements and supplying the reader with modern information and corresponding literature references regarding the topics discussed. The bibliography from the book is presented "as is" in the verbatim; a separate page entitled "Current sources and further reading" lists more than 170 modern references. In addition, the site also presents biographical information about Stéphen Chauvet himself, which increases the overall presentation integrity of this impressive new translation project.

PUBLICATIONS

- Allen, Tricia. 2006. *Tattoo Traditions of Hawai'i*. A near-complete compilation of all early ethnohistoric illustrations and references on Hawaiian tattoo, including a number of previously unpublished original Arago illustrations from 1819. 230 pages. \$17.95 Mutual Publishing, Honolulu. <http://www.tattootraditions.alohaworld.com>
- Angleviel, F. 2005. Des géants de pierre à l'homme-oiseau. Les manifestations de la religion ancienne de l'île de Pâques. *Religions and Histoire* (Paris) 4, Sept-Oct., 72-81.
- Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association*, Vol. 25. Indo-Pacific Prehistory: The Taipei Papers, Volume 3.

2005. Proceedings of the 17th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, 9-15 September 2002. Edited by Peter Bellwood, Judith Cameron, and Susan Keates. The volume contains 22 papers plus an Editorial by Peter Bellwood. The bulk of the papers concern Pleistocene Peopling of Continental Asia and Archaeology in Vietnam. Canberra: Australian National University. ISSN 0156-1316.
- Bulletin of the International String Figure Association*, vol. 11, 2004. Box 5134, Pasadena CA 91117; This issue features string figures of Japan. webweavers@isfa.org
- Le Bulletin du Centre d'Études sur l'Île de Pâques et la Polynésie*. Dec. 2005. Délégation de la Polynésie française à Paris, 28, boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris. Le Bulletin has an article by Ghislain Houzel about the archaeological mission to Vanikoro and the search for the wrecks of the ships of La Pérouse. No. 83 for February 2006 has another item regarding La Pérouse and his lost ships.
- Campbell, Petra. 2005. Performance art and plastic bags in the Pacific. *Artlink: Contemporary Art Quarterly*, Vol. 25(4):74-75.
- John Charlot. *Classical Hawaiian Education: Generations of Hawaiian Culture*. The Pacific Institute, Brigham Young University, Hawaii. CD-ROM. Available for US\$14 plus shipping and handling. This electronic book is formatted for printing or reading on a computer or PDA. Fully indexed with interactive functions including hyperlinks. Charlot provides the most complete description to date of education in an oral culture, showing how education permeated the Hawaiians' lives and was a central factor in their encounters with foreigners. uhpbooks@hawaii.edu
- Cherry, Michael. 2005. Return to Rapa Nui. *Surfing Magazine* Vol. 41(11): 52-58, for November. This is the typical surfing expedition, loaded with "dude" and other bits of surf lingo. It is hard to tell where on the island's shores they were actually surfing as the author has messed up the place names. He refers to "Tanga Roa" which probably is Hanga Roa, and "Tanga Reki" seems to be Tongariki. "Mataveru" appears to be the shoreline at Ana Kai Tangata. The author also has problems with the island's history, as he has the "birdman.... retrieve a bird from an offshore island and return it..." and the oft-repeated mistake about Akivi being the only *ahu* facing toward the ocean. But hey, dudes who read *Surfing Magazine* will not be interested in the finer points.
- Cruchet, Louis. *Le ciel en Polynésie. Essai 'ethnoastronomie en Polynésie orientale*. L'Harmattan, Paris.
- Easter Island Map*, 3rd Edition, October 2005. International Travel Maps and Books, Ltd. Vancouver. \$13.95.
- Guerra, A. and C. Stevenson. 2005. Arqueología de la agricultura prehistórica. Rapa Nui. Resultados de la Campaña Vaitea 2001-2002. *Revista de Arqueología* (Madrid) 293, Sept. pp. 26-35.
- The Journal of Austronesian Studies* (JAS) June 2005. National Museum of Prehistory, Taiwan, Republic of China. JAS is devoted to the study of Austronesian societies and published in both Chinese and English. <http://linux01.nmp.gov.tw/messenger/notes/940603-2.doc>.
- Lilley, Ian, ed. 2006. *Archaeology of Oceania. Australia and the Pacific Islands. Blackwell Studies in Global Archaeology*. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, Inc.
- Orliac, Catherine. 2005. The Rongorongo tablets from Easter Island: Botanical identification and ¹⁴C dating. *Archaeology in Oceania* 40:115-119.
- Peiser, Benny. 2005. From Genocide to Ecocide: The Rape of Rapa Nui. *Energy and Environment*, Vol. 16(3-4). UK: Multi-Science Publications Col, Ltd.
- Pendleton, Stephen with O. W. Newport and Members of the PISG. *Philatelic Survey of Chile's Juan Fernandez Archipelago*. Stamp aficionados take note. The first letter with a "cancel" from Juan Fernandez dates from 1899. Available from the author: SPENDL@peoplepc.com
- Tahiti Pacifique*. The March 2006 issue (No. 179) features "Le naufrage de la Matilda à Moruroa en 1792" by Ghislain Houzel. The February 2006 issue (No.178) has papers concerning development and conservation in Huahine and the Marquesas: "La vallée de Tarae à Tefarerii, Huahine, Protection ou développement?" by Mark Eddowes; and Pour une archéologie préventive: Concilier respect du passé et développement socio-économique, by Eirc Conte. [It seems that Easter is not the only island in Polynesia where archaeological sites are being trashed by hotel projects.] The January 2006 (No. 177) issue contains "Réflexions sur le drame de Vanikoro et l'expédition de 2005," regarding the La Pérouse mystery, and "Le tiki Marquisien de Picasso retrouvé." The December 2005 (No. 176), issue has an article on tattoo. B. P. 368, Moorea, Polynésie française. www.tahiti-pacifique.com
- Tcherkezoff, Serge and Françoise Douaire-Marsaudon 2006. Translated by Nora Scott. *The Changing South Pacific. Identities and Transformations*. ANU: Pandanus Books.
- Rich, Roland with Luke Hambly and Michael G. Morgan, editors. *Political Parties in the Pacific Islands*. 2006. Pandanus Books, Australian National University.
-  Pacific Collections, University of Hawai'i at Manoa: a collection of early photographs from Easter Island from the Edmunds/Bryan collection, 1904-1929. <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/digicoll/rapanui/index.html>
- A NEW ISLAND TRAVEL BLOG has been launched to supply visitors with the latest updates. South Pacific Travel carries news and views from 15 Pacific countries and territories, shares information collected by David Stanley, author of *Moon Handbooks South Pacific*. It covers everything from Easter Island to the Solomons, the same areas included in Stanley's guides. *Moon Handbooks South Pacific* was the original travel guide to Oceania, first published in 1979, and now in its 8th edition. It takes years to compile each new edition, and even as one is being printed, the next one is underway. In the interim, a blog <http://southpacific.org/blog/> keeps readers up to date. Aside from providing new facts, the South Pacific Travel blog discusses issues of interest to visitors. Subjects often avoided in mainstream guidebooks can be

touched on here. Says Stanley, "I consider this blog an extension of my existing websites, and a means of staying in touch with my diverse readership. Viewers can contact me through the blog, and if I think their questions are of general interest, I'll address them in the next day's posts." Stanley's guidebooks are published by Avalon Travel Publishing of Emeryville, California.

David Stanley has created three travel websites to display his photos, maps, and guides.

<http://www.pacific-pictures.com>

<http://www.mapsofthepacific.com>

<http://www.southpacific.org>

'A Pó: The Rapanui Youth Program, Field Report on Lichen Studies

'A Pó (THE RAPANUI YOUTH INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM) began in 2003 as an educational outreach program offered by the Padre Sebastián Englert Anthropological Museum on Rapa Nui. For the last three years, the program has involved local Rapa Nui high school students in various scientific research projects.

During 2005, a group of students and instructors mapped, photographed and described the lichens of Vinapu, focusing specifically on Ahu Tahira. The project was funded in part by generous donations from Michael Graves, Jo Lynn Gunnness, and the University of Hawai'i Foundation. Revisiting a topic initially investigated by Gerhard Follmann in the 1960's, the 'A Pó group conducted a pilot study to assess lichen growth and the potential for lichenometry at Ahu Tahira. Students participating in the 2005 project learned a vari-

ety of fieldwork and laboratory skills, including digital photography, archaeological mapping, microscopic analysis, and computer programs for data analysis.

The pilot study, the results of which will soon be presented on the 'A Pó website (<http://www.terevaka.net/apo.html>), will serve as a foundation for future research. A long-term monitoring project may be the best step forward to reestablish lichen studies on the island and to further both archaeological and biological interests. Lichens are renowned for their use in environmental monitoring, and if groups of high school students could regularly collect lichen data from specific sites, the contribution to a database of measurements for future analysis would be invaluable. To support 'A Pó or for questions or comments, please contact 'A Pó coordinator: bleif@hawaii.edu.

Easter Island: Total Land Area of Te Pito o Te Henua

Claudio Cristino and Roberto Izaurieta

REVIEWING THE COPIOUS LITERATURE dealing with Easter Island, we find conflicting figures for the land area of the island. Many are clearly inaccurate, so we are pleased to now update this information. The surface of Easter Island is calculated based on air-photogrammetric digital mapping developed by IGM (*Instituto Geográfico Militar de Chile*) in August 2004, based on air photographs, scale 1:25,000, taken by SAF (*Servicio Aerofotogramétrico de la Fuerza Aérea de Chile*) in 1981. For the vectorial cartography, the Geodetic Reference System SIRGAS (WGS84) in UTM projection zone 12 (central meridian 111°W) were used, designed for graphic plots to scale 1:10,000, with contour lines every 5 meters.

Our new calculations show that the exact value of the area included by the projected coastal polygon of Easter Island is 16,357.4026 hectares and, after applying the reciprocal square of the UTM mean scale factor for the island, a corrected value of 16,359.7354 hectares or 40,425.6209 acres is obtained, as effective for the zero contour at mean sea level. Thus, the land area of Easter Island, rounded to the nearest decimal, is 163.6 square kilometers or 63.2 square miles.

Editor's Note: In 1994, *RNJ* printed a paper by Lehman Henry, "The Area of Rapa Nui," *RNJ* 8(3):71-73. Henry suggested 66 square miles (171 sq. km) as the size of the island. Those who used 64 sq. miles include: *Cambridge World Gazetteer* (1988); *Uncommon Guide to Easter Island* by Lee (1990); *Rapa Nui National Park Map* (1992); *Easter Island Earth Island* by Bahn and Flenley (1993); *South Pacific Handbook* (1993); and *National Geographic Magazine* (March 1993). The only one to come up with 63 square miles was *The New Encyclopedia Britannica* for 1990. *The US National Museum Report of 1899* gave the smallest dimension, stating the island's size to be a measly 34 square miles.



Students on the 'A Pó project study the lichen growth on Ahu Tahira at Vinapu, under direction of Brett Shepardson.